



**Standing Committee on
Public Safety and National Security**

***Occupation of Ottawa and the Federal
Government's Response to Convoy Blockades***

February 25, 2022

N.B.: The Committee can request a copy of all witness materials.

**House of Commons Standing Committee on
Public Safety and National Security (SECU)**

Occupation of Ottawa and the Federal Government's Response to Convoy

February 25, 2022

12:30 to 14:30

Table of Contents

1	Scenario Note
2	SECU Committee Overview and Member Biographies
3	Key Messages on <i>Emergencies Act</i>
3a	Revoking the <i>Emergencies Act</i>
4	Financial Measures
5	Questions & Answers on the <i>Emergencies Act</i>
6	Situation in Ottawa
7	Overview of Key Blockades and Illegal Protest Sites
8	Member Conduct
9	Intelligence / Ideologically-Motivated Violent Extremism
10	Systemic Racism in Policing

**House of Commons Standing Committee
on Public Safety and National Security (SECU)**

**February 25, 2022
12:30-14:30
via Zoom**

**RCMP Appearance: *OCCUPATION OF OTTAWA AND THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO CONVOY BLOCKADES***

Key Messages

- The goal of law enforcement is always to maintain public order and keep citizens safe. The challenges that we've faced are unprecedented in their scope and nature.
- The tools provided to law enforcement in the measures enacted under the *Emergencies Act* are targeted, time-limited and proportional measures that will help us bring about a peaceful resolution to a difficult situation.
- While not the police service of jurisdiction for the demonstrations in Ottawa, the RCMP is worked closely with our law enforcement partners, including the Parliamentary Protective Service and the Ottawa Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police.

APPEARANCE

The Minister of Public Safety (PS) is scheduled to appear before the House Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) regarding their study on the invoking of the *Emergencies Act* on February 25, 2022, from 12:30 to 14:30. You and other senior officials from PS and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will attend to support the Minister. Participants include:

Department of Public Safety (PS)

- Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety
- Rob Stewart, Deputy Minister
- Officials from Department of Public Safety to be determined

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

- Brenda Lucki, Commissioner
- Dennis Daley, Assistant Commissioner, Contract and Indigenous Policing

Canada Border Services Agency

- John Ossowski, President
- Scott Harris, Vice-President, Intelligence and Enforcement Branch
- Denis Vinette, Vice-President, Travellers Branch

Department of Finance

- Richard Bilodeau, Director General, Financial Institutions Division, Financial Sector Policy Branch

Department of Justice

- Samantha Maislin Dickson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Safety, Defence and Immigration Portfolio

Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

- Talal Dakalbab, Assistant Deputy Minister, Crime Prevention Branch

Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada

- Barry MacKillop, Deputy Director, Intelligence

You will appear along with the Minister, Mr. Ossowski and Mr. Stewart from 12:30 to 13:30. Portfolio officials, including Deputy Commissioner Duheme and Assistant Commissioner Daley will appear from 13:30 to 14:30. Officials from Ottawa Police Service or the Ontario Provincial Police will not appear.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

On February 15, 2022, SECU adopted the following motion:

“That the committee invite the Minister of Public Safety and department officials from both the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, The Ontario Provincial Police, The Ottawa Police Service, and Canada Border Services Agency to appear as soon as possible before the committee to answer questions regarding the occupation of Ottawa and the federal government’s response to convoy blockades disrupting our borders, notably in Windsor, Ontario; Emerson, Manitoba; and Coutts, Alberta.”

During debate of this motion, several LPC members questioned the merit in inviting the officials to appear on an urgent basis as they would not be able to share details of ongoing operations. The LPC members also noted that per the *Emergencies Act*, an inquiry must be held following the end of the declaration of the Act and that SECU had also adopted several other similar studies, one examining extremism financing on crowdfunding platforms and one that will study the rise of Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism.

In response, several SECU members stated why they were interested in having officials appear as soon as possible:

- NDP MP Alistair MacGgregor: “This is really about examining intelligence failures, lack of coordination, that from January 29 up until the present day, how did we get to this point? That’s just really what I want us to focus on.”
- CPC MP Dane Lloyd: “It would be very important for us to review [the] coordination between police services...”
 - MP Lloyd also remarked, “I think it’s very important that we have the RCMP and OPP to give us some context on what their actions have been during this.”

- CPC MP Tako Van Popta: “I want to hear from the various police forces involved here, particularly in the province of Ontario, about how we came to that point, and to what extent were the OPP and the RCMP and the city police working together, and the CBSA. They are also part of this study and how could we improve that? What could have been done better?”
- CPC MP Doug Shipley: “While they may not be able to speak in great detail about current operations, they might be able to give us a lot of information about past similar occurrences that they have dealt with and perhaps ended a little quicker.”

During the February 17, 2022, SECU meeting, a motion was adopted specifying that the organized identified above appear before SECU “the week of February 21st, or as soon as possible thereafter should any witnesses not be available that week”.

BACKGROUND

SECU reviews legislation policies, programs and expenditure plans of government departments and agencies responsible for public safety and national security, policing and law enforcement, corrections and conditional release of federal offenders, emergency management, crime prevention and the protection of Canada's borders.

While SECU has initiated their study on what led to the Emergencies Act being invoked, per the Act itself, the government must also call an inquiry into the circumstances resulting in the declaration of emergency within sixty days of its termination. The government must table the report of this inquiry in Parliament within 360 days after the end of the declaration.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Rounds of Questioning:

Members of the Committee are allotted six minutes to both ask questions and receive responses during the first round of questioning. In the second round (time permitting), the allotted time for questions and answers is reduced to five minutes.

- Typical order of questioning for the first round: Liberal, Conservative, Bloc, NDP.
- Typical order of questioning for the second round: Conservative, Liberal, Conservative, Liberal, then 2.5 minutes each for the Bloc and NDP.

Departmental officials present at Committee are responsible for supporting the Minister's accountability in Parliament. As departmental officials are not primarily responsible for exercising the powers of the Crown, their relationship to Parliament is different from that of Ministers. While Ministers are responsible for political, partisan matters, and for defending public policies before Parliament, deputy heads and officials support Ministers in providing explanations and information on public policies that Ministers could not be expected to provide due to the level of detail or complexity.

When responding to questions from committee members, keep your answers brief and factual. Avoid taking a position, providing your opinion, stating your personal recommendations or speaking on behalf of others on a given issue. Do not divulge classified information, Cabinet confidences or any information that contradicts privacy laws.

House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU)

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security reviews the legislation, policies, programs and expenditure plans of government departments and agencies responsible for public safety and national security, policing and law enforcement, corrections and conditional release of federal offenders, emergency management, crime prevention and the protection of Canada's borders.

Chair	Hon. Jim Carr	Liberal
Vice Chairs	Raquel Dancho	Conservative
	Kristina Michaud	Bloc Québécois
Members	Paul Chiang	Liberal
	Pam Damoff	Liberal
	Dane Lloyd	Conservative
	Alistair MacGregor	NDP
	Ron McKinnon	Liberal
	Taleeb Noormohamed	Liberal
	Doug Shipley	Conservative
	Tako Van Popta	Conservative
	Sameer Zuberi	Liberal

Winnipeg South Centre, Manitoba

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2015.

Education and Background

- Served as the Minister of Natural Resources from 2015 to 2018; he was the Minister of International Trade Diversification from 2018 to 2019; and from January to October 2021, served on Cabinet as the Special Representative for the Prairies.
- From 1988 to 1992, he was a member of the Manitoba Legislature.
- Prior to entering federal politics, he was a journalist and worked as an editorial writer and columnist with the Winnipeg Free Press as well as for CBC Radio.



Points of Note

Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).

Raquel Dancho

Conservative

Kilonan-St. Paul, Manitoba

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2019

Education and Background

- Obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at McGill University.

Points of Note

- Member of Standing Committee on the status of Women (FEWO).
- Previously had a career with the Manitoba Government.
- Advocate for small business and Canadian farmers.
- Ms. Dancho served in the senior role of Special Assistant to the Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage and was instrumental in facilitating critical relationships between the Minister and historic arts and culture institutions across Manitoba.



Avignon—La Mitis—Matane—Matapédia, Quebec

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2019.

Education and Background

- Holds a Master's degree in international relations from the Université Laval.
- Worked as a political advisor to interim Parti Québécois leader Pascal Bérubé.



Points of Note

- Vice-Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) and member of its Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure (SSEC).
- Bloc Québécois Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Critic.
- MP Michaud was critical of the RCMP's initial response to the Wet'suwet'en crisis. She supported the RCMP's withdrawal from the Wet'suwet'en area and has expressed support for the creation of Indigenous police services as one way to rebuild trust between Indigenous people and law enforcement.
- Since November 2021, MP Michaud has been particularly interested in illegal firearms smuggling and the presence of firearms on Quebec. Her interest is a result of the ongoing gun violence amongst youth in the Greater Montreal Region.

Paul Chiang

Liberal

Markham—Unionville, Ontario

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2021.

Education and Background

- Prior to entering federal politics, he had a career in policing that spanned 28 years. He retired as a sergeant with the York Regional Police Service, but also served with the London Police Service and Durham Regional Police.
- In 2013, he was awarded the Police Exemplary Service Medal.



Points of Note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion (Diversity and Inclusion).

Oakville North—Burlington, Ontario

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2015.

Education and Background

- Has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Western Ontario.
- Oakville Town Councillor from 2010 to 2015.
- Worked in financial and investment banking positions for 27 years.



Points of Note

- Member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) and its Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure (SSEC). Also a member of the House of Commons Special Committee on Afghanistan (AFGH).
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety.
- Served previously as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indigenous Services and as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health.
- Recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and a number of other awards for her community service.
- She has expressed concern about the length of time it is taking for the RCMP to review and respond to the CRCC's report related to the death of Colton Boushie.
- She has also advocated for better protection for sexual assault victims.

Sturgeon River—Parkland, Alberta

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2017.

Education and Background

- Graduated from Trinity Western University with a degree in History and Political Studies.
- Before being elected as a Member of Parliament, he worked as a Parliamentary Advisor to St. Albert-Edmonton MP Michael Cooper, the Honourable Ed Fast who served as the Minister of International Trade, and the Honourable Jason Kenney.
- Serve as a Canadian Army reservist in the Governor General's Foot Guards.



Points of Note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).
- Conservative Shadow Minister for Emergency Preparedness.
- Served previously on several committees, including the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology (INDU), the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACVA), the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO), and the Standing Committee on Natural Resources (RNNR).
- In June 2021, he introduced Private Member's Bill C-316, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act. The bill sought to amend the *Criminal Code* to add as an aggravating factor for sentencing purposes and as a reason to delay parole the fact that a person who is convicted of certain offences refuses to provide persons in authority with information respecting the location of bodies or remains.

Cowichan—Malahat—Langford, British Columbia

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2015.

Education and Background

- Graduate of the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University.
- Previously worked in British Columbia's forestry sector.
- Prior to being elected to Parliament, worked as a constituency assistant for an NDP MP in British Columbia.



Points of Note

- Currently serving as Critic for Public Safety, Agriculture and Food, and as Deputy Critic for Justice. He has previously served as the NDP's Critic for Senior and Justice and Human Rights.
- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) and the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI).
- Has served previously on several Standing Committees including the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights (JUST) and was the Vice-Chair of the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying (AMAD).
- In November 2021, called for RCMP reform and offered to form an alliance with the LPC to do so.
- Introduced a Private Member's Bill seeking to prohibit investments of Canada Pension Plan in entities that produce weapons or commissioned of human, labour or environmental rights violations. The bill was defeated by both the CP and LPC.
- Commented on the SECU Committee Report on "Systemic Racism in Policing in Canada." Stated that the following recommendations should be implemented: Legislative overhaul of the RCMP Act; Better and more robust civilian oversight; A better review and complaints process; The transition away from a para-military force; and, Better Indigenous consultation, inclusion, and partnership in policing services, especially in Indigenous communities.
- During JUST's 2018 study on Human Trafficking in Canada, he sought to understand if the *Criminal Code* is working for successful prosecution of those accused of human trafficking. He asked a witness, "what are front-line officers and CBSA or our police doing themselves to meet them halfway? Are any strategies being employed to try to actively form those relationships with people who are affected to encourage them to come forward? I think there's a role for agencies to meet them halfway..."

Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam, British Columbia

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2015.

Education and Background

- Earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Alberta and an honours diploma in Computer Technology from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.
- Prior to entering federal politics, he was a business owner and a computer systems analyst.



Points of Note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).
- Previously served as Chair of the Standing Committee on Health (HESA), Chair of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Health (SHES), Member of Liaison Committee (LIAI), and Member of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights (JUST).
- In the 42nd Parliament, 1st Session, he sponsored Bill C-224, *An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (assistance – drug overdose)*, which received Royal Assent in 2017.

Taleeb Noormohamed

Liberal

Vancouver Granville, British Columbia

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2021.

Education and Background

- Graduated from Princeton University with BA, attended the University of Oxford for Graduate/Doctoral Studies, and completed his Master's at Harvard University.
- Prior to entering federal politics, he served as a senior official in the federal government from 2002 to 2007. During his time with the federal government, he was involved with establishing the Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security. He also served as Director of the Air India Review Secretariat and Special Advisor to the Hon. Bob Rae.
- He was an executive in the technology sector and was a member of the Board of Directors for the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA).



Points of Note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security.

Doug Shipley

Conservative

Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte, Ontario

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2019.

Education and Background

- City Councillor in Barrie from 2010 to 2019.
- Small business owner.
- Former Vice-Chair of the Barrie Police Services Board.



Points of Note

- Member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU). Was a previous member of SECU in 2020. Also previously served on the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities (TRAN).
- When SECU was studying Systemic Racism in Policing Services in Canada, he expressed interest in strategies that could be easily and quickly put in place by the RCMP to recruit more members, specifically women, from first nations communities.

Tako Van Popta

Conservative

Langley—Aldergrove, British Columbia

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2019.

Education and Background

- Holds an undergraduate degree from Trinity Western University and a law degree from the University of British Columbia.
- Had a 30 plus-year law career with McQuarrie Hunter LLP.
- Former director at the Surrey Board of Trade and the Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association.



Points of Note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).
- Recently completed the Firearms Safety Course in an effort to better understand his constituents' concerns about the assault-style firearms ban. He noted that "the real problem [is] illegal guns and gang violence", including cross-border firearms smuggling.
- Voiced concern in the House of Commons about the economic effects of the Indigenous rail blockades in support of the Wet'suwet'en.
- On the Merlo-Davidson Settlement Agreement, he asked the Commissioner whether she was confident the progress the RCMP is making to address Justice Bastarache's findings "will be effective in restoring the public's confidence" in the RCMP. Additionally, he asked Justice Bastarache whether "the RCMP even be fixed, or does it have to be dismantled? Do we have to have another model of policing altogether?"

Pierrefonds-Dollard, Québec

Election

- Elected to the House of Commons in 2019.

Education and Background

- Graduated from Concordia University with a BA in Pure and Applied Mathematics and earned a Law degree from the Université du Québec à Montréal.
- Prior to entering federal politics, held a variety of positions including: Legal Researcher, Educator, and Media and Human Rights Coordinator.
- Served over five years as a Reservist with the Canadian Forces.



Points of Note

- Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU).
- Previous Member of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights (JUST). Also served on the Standing Joint Committee for the Scrutiny of Regulations (REGS) and on the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACVA).
- In 2007, in his capacity with the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations, argued that the federal government should scrap the “no-fly” list.
- In 2007, appeared as a witness on behalf of the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations, before the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) for their study on Bill C-3, *An Act to amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (certificate and special advocate) and to make a consequential amendment to another Act*. As part of his testimony, stated that he was not supportive of Bill C-3. The Bill received Royal Assent in 2008.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

RCMP SPEAKING POINTS:

- Over the last three weeks, police services across the country have been responding to unprecedented and unlawful demonstrations, protests, occupations, and acts of civil disobedience.
- Federal and provincial legislation provides significant authorities and powers to police services to maintain the rule of law.
- However, the illegal blockades and unlawful protests in Ottawa and across the country presented unique challenges.
- The invocation of the *Emergencies Act* and associated measures provided all police officers across the country – not just the RCMP – with additional tools to deal with the situation.

If pressed on specific examples of how the Emergencies Act has been used:

- Within Ottawa, provisions of the *Emergencies Act* have granted the RCMP and law enforcement partners the authorities necessary to maintain the perimeter, restrict travel and ensure that we can continue to stop financial support and other assistance for this unlawful protest.
- As of February 23rd enforcement action under the *Emergency Economic Measures Order* has culminated in the freezing of 246 financial products; the disclosure of 57 entities, which includes individuals and owners or drivers of vehicles involved in the blockades; 253 Bitcoin wallet addresses shared with virtual currency exchangers; and, the proactive freezing of the account of a payment processor by a financial institution.
- I delegated the new requisition powers to compel people to provide essential goods and services such as tow trucks to key members of my team, as well as the OPP Commissioner and OPP police officers he designates to use these requisition powers on his behalf.
 - I understand that the OPP used these powers to request needed equipment to clear the streets in Ottawa.
- Outside of Ottawa, we believe that the *Emergencies Act* has also been a deterrent for at least some protest groups in how they conduct themselves.

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IMPACT OF THE REVOCATION OF *EMERGENCIES ACT* FOR POLICING

RCMP SPEAKING POINTS:

- The RCMP remains committed to working with our law enforcement partners to ensure the safety and security of Canadians.
- In Ottawa, the Integrated Command Centre is still activated. We will continue to work in close collaboration with the Ottawa Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police to monitor the situation in Ottawa and surrounding areas.
- The RCMP will also continue to actively monitor the situation related to the various illegal protest activities across Canada. We will keep a constant state of preparedness and have scalable resources available if needed.
- The revocation of the public order emergency takes nothing away from our resolve to effectively enforce the law and keep communities safe. We will do so using existing tools and authorities, such as those provided by the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Did you need the *Emergencies Act*?

- The measures enacted under the *Emergencies Act* provided all police officers across the country - not just the RCMP - with additional tools to deal with unlawful public assemblies like the one in Ottawa.
- The goal of law enforcement is always to maintain public order and keep citizens safe. Over the last three weeks, police services across the country have been responding to unprecedented and unlawful demonstrations, protests, occupations, and acts of civil disobedience.
- The tools provided to law enforcement in the measures enacted under the *Emergencies Act* were targeted, time-limited and proportional measures that helped us bring about a peaceful resolution to a difficult situation.

If pressed, on whether the Emergencies Act was necessary:

- What I can say is that in Ottawa, the *Emergencies Act* was an effective tool. Its provisions granted the RCMP and law enforcement partners the authorities necessary to maintain the perimeter, restrict travel and stop financial support and other assistance for this unlawful protest.
- We also believe that the *Emergencies Act* served as a deterrent for some protest groups in how they conducted themselves, both in Ottawa and in other parts of the country.

Were you consulted by the Government on the invocation of the *Emergencies Act*?

- The RCMP provided the Government with regular updates on the situations that were unfolding across the country. There was constant communication between the RCMP and the Government.

Were you consulted by the Government on the revocation of the *Emergencies Act*?

- Since the *Emergencies Act* was invoked, I provided regular updates to the Minister and to the Government. I also participated in several meetings of the Incident Response Group where I briefed on law enforcement actions being taken in Ottawa and across the country.

What changed between Monday when the Government said they still needed the Act, and Wednesday when the Government revoked the emergency?

- I have been providing the Government with regular operational updates on the situation in Ottawa and at other sites across the country.
- Last weekend, we saw a significant, complex and methodical police operation in Ottawa, undertaken by numerous law enforcement partners.
- Further to discussions with our policing partners, we are confident that moving forward, the situation can be managed using the authorities and powers provided to police services through existing federal and provincial legislation to maintain the rule of law.
- As we have seen in places like Emerson, Coutts, Windsor, Toronto and Quebec City to name a few, policing agencies have managed and resolved protests without the use of the *Emergencies Act*.
- The RCMP will continue our work with our policing partners to ensure that the situation remains secure.

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FINANCIAL MEASURES

RCMP SPEAKING POINTS:

- The *Emergencies Act* allowed law enforcement and monitoring agencies to work more closely with Canadian financial institutions; which enhanced the effectiveness of law enforcement's investigations pertaining to the illegal convoy protests.
- The RCMP and its policing partners used the Emergency Economic Measures Order to strongly encourage individuals to leave the illegal protests and deter them from counselling others to commit criminal offences.
- The RCMP provided relevant information to financial institutions, who had the onus to determine which financial products should be frozen.

If pressed on how the Emergency Economic Measures were used:

- As of February 23rd enforcement action culminated in the freezing of 246 financial products; the disclosure of 57 entities, which includes individuals and owners or drivers of vehicles involved in the blockades; 253 Bitcoin wallet addresses shared with virtual currency exchangers; and, the proactive freezing of the account of a payment processor by a financial institution.
- The list that was provided to financial institutions included identities of individuals who were influencers in the illegal protest in Ottawa, and owners and/or drivers of vehicles who did not want to leave the area impacted by the protest.
- At no time did the RCMP disclose information on donors or on those who purchased merchandise.

If pressed on the current status of accounts frozen:

- On February 21st, the RCMP went back to financial institutions with some updated information about certain entities whose status may have changed pertaining to the illegal protest activity.
- This new information was available for financial institutions to assess alongside all other information to help inform decisions to unfreeze certain accounts.
- On February 23rd, the declaration of a public order emergency under the *Emergencies Act* was revoked.

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INVOKING OF THE *EMERGENCIES ACT*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

What additional authorities and tools had been provided to law enforcement through the invoking of the *Emergencies Act*?

- The measures enacted under the *Emergencies Act* provided all police officers across the country - not just the RCMP - with additional tools to deal with public assemblies like the one in Ottawa.
- The tools provided to law enforcement in the measures enacted under the *Emergencies Act* are targeted, time-limited and proportional measures that helped us bring about a peaceful resolution to a difficult situation.
- The goal of law enforcement is always to maintain public order and keep citizens safe. The challenges that faced us in recent weeks has been unprecedented in their scope and nature.

Did the measures in the *Emergencies Act* override any of the existing authorities?

- These measures did not displace or replace provincial or territorial authorities. They added to authorities that provincial and municipal police services could use as well as the RCMP, both in its capacity as the federal police force and where the RCMP is the police of jurisdiction.
- The Ontario Provincial Police and Ottawa Police Services did not lose jurisdiction.
- The *Emergencies Act* did nothing to change the authorities or mandate of police of jurisdiction but these additional tools were available to them, and also to the RCMP.

What were some of the measures provided to law enforcement through the *Emergencies Act*?

- There were a number of special temporary measures to ensure the safety of Canadians during a national emergency:
 - Prohibiting public assemblies that may reasonably be expected to lead to a breach of the peace. What we are seeing in Ottawa goes well beyond peaceful protest;
 - Prohibiting the use of property to facilitate or participate in such

- assemblies;
- Designating and securing protected places;
- Directing persons to render essential goods and services to remove, tow and store vehicles and other items that are part of a blockade, with compensation;
- Prohibiting the use, collection, or provision of property in support of an unlawful assembly – e.g., diesel for illegally idling trucks creating a blockade.
- Authorizing or directing financial institutions to render essential services to relieve impact of blockades, including regulating and prohibiting the use of property to fund or support the blockades, and compelling banks to freeze bank accounts reasonably suspected to have contributed to the public order emergency;
- The imposition of fines, imprisonment, or both, for failure to comply with regulations made under section 19 of the Emergencies Act or a lawful order made under them (e.g. direction to provide essential goods and services).

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SITUATION IN OTTAWA

RCMP SPEAKING POINTS:

- RCMP officers were continuously and fully engaged in supporting the Ottawa Police Service as part of the Enhanced Integrated Command Centre.
- The RCMP provided around-the-clock support and assistance to the Ottawa Police Service, who held the operational lead and jurisdiction in regards to the ongoing demonstrations in Ottawa.
- In addition to our support having been provided to the Ottawa Police, and in keeping with our primary protective mandate, the RCMP's National Division focused on safeguarding the various Canadian dignitaries who fall under the RCMP's purview.

If pressed on the specifics of Ottawa operations or why the Ottawa blockade was not cleared in the manner of other blockades across Canada:

- Ottawa Police Service held the operational lead and jurisdiction in regards to the demonstrations in Ottawa.
- There will be an opportunity in future to reflect on the lessons learned in Ottawa and of course the *Emergencies Act* has a number of provisions to ensure appropriate Parliamentary oversight.

If pressed on contributions to the planning for Ottawa Police Service response:

- The integrated response plan for Ottawa was developed in partnership between the OPP, RCMP, OPS, and PPS, among others, with ultimate responsibility resting with Interim Chief Bell as the jurisdictional lead.

If pressed on the number of RCMP resources provided to the Ottawa Police Service:

- While I cannot speak to the specific deployment numbers in support of the OPS in the interest of operational integrity, I can say that as a national police organization, the RCMP can draw resources from across the country in support of major operational needs to effectively respond to any urgent situation.
- RCMP members stationed in the NCR are being leveraged, and members from our Divisions, primarily in Ontario and Quebec, are also being deployed to assist with this effort.

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OVERVIEW OF KEY BLOCKADES AND ILLEGAL PROTEST SITES

Ottawa, Ontario

Current Status: Enforcement ongoing as of February 17, 2022
Duration: 28 days and ongoing]
Start Date: January 28, 2022
End Date: TBD

On February 16, after three weeks of occupation, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) issued a warning to protesters to either leave or be arrested. On February 17, 2022, the Integrated Command Centre (ICC) comprised of RCMP, Ontario Provincial Police, OPS, and other police services commenced enforcement activities. This led to the arrest of key convoy organizers and supporters, including Chris Barber, Tamara Lich, Pat King, Daniel Bulford and Alex Vriend. On February 20, 2022, during the afternoon, Ottawa Police delivered a Trespass Notice to individuals located at Coventry Road, a staging area with extra supplies for the downtown convoy. As of the end of the day, the staging area has been cleared.

As of February 21, 2022, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) reported over 196 arrests and 110 vehicles towed. The ICC established operational control of the NCR and continue operations to return the downtown core to a state of normalcy.

Windsor, Ontario

Current Status: Concluded
Duration: 8 days
Start Date: February 7, 2022
End Date: February 14, 2022

On February 7, 2022, the Ambassador Bridge closed in both directions due to significant protest activity, disrupting all cross-border commercial traffic vital to the North American economy. On February 11, 2022, the Superior Court Chief Justice issued a temporary injunction prohibiting individuals from establishing a blockade or impeding access to the Ambassador Bridge. Windsor Police Service provided notices to demonstrators, confirming that anyone involved must immediately cease unlawful activity or otherwise, could be facing charges. On February 12, 2022, law enforcement agencies commenced enforcing the injunction and the Bridge was completely reopened on February 14th. In total, 42 individuals were arrested and 37 vehicles were removed.

Emerson, Manitoba

Current Status: Concluded
Duration: 7 days
Start Date: February 10, 2022
End Date: February 16, 2022

On February 10, 2022, the Emerson port of entry (POE) was completely blocked by protest activity, disrupting cross border traffic between Canada and the US. Free movement of all livestock transport, CBSA employees, emergency services vehicles and residential traffic from the town of Emerson continued. Through ongoing consultation and negotiation, the convoy organizers agreed to a “slow roll” departure mid-day on February 16, 2022. The Emerson POE was re-opened on February 16, 2022.

Coutts, Alberta

Current Status: Concluded 17
Duration: days
Start Date: January 29, 2022
End Date: February 15, 2022

On January 30, 2022, the Coutts POE was significantly disrupted due to ongoing protest activity. This border crossing is important for ongoing trade between Canada and the US, as it is the largest POE in Alberta and the only one operating 24 hours a day.

On February 14, 2022, the RCMP arrested 11 suspects and seized firearms and ammunition. These suspects have been charged with a variety of Criminal Code offences, including mischief over \$5000 and conspiracy to commit murder. After the arrest of these key suspects, the convoy leaders reached an agreement with the RCMP recognizing that the demonstrators maintained peaceful intent and that no violence would be tolerated. As such, the border resumed operation on February 15, 2022.

Surrey, British Columbia

Current Status: Concluded
Duration: 8 days
Start Date: February 12, 2022
End Date: February 19, 2022

Since February 12, 2022, the Pacific Highway border crossing has had various disruptions resulting in intermittent border closures. For instance, on February 13, 2022, the Pacific Highway redirected traffic to other POEs, while on February 15th, the border restricted access to vehicles and pedestrians. On February 19th, the border was open in the morning and closed in the afternoon due to increased protest activity. As of February 19, 2022 at 2000 hours, the border remains open as the majority of demonstrators and vehicles have departed.

Other events

Many events were planned and have taken place across the country over the last few weeks. Some were cancelled or postponed, and others materialized without violent incidents.

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MEMBER CONDUCT

RCMP SPEAKING POINTS:

- Public trust is essential for the RCMP to effectively serve and protect Canadians. As a result, RCMP employees must conduct themselves in a manner that meets the rightfully high expectations of Canadians.
- All RCMP employees, whether Regular Members, Civilian Members or Public Services employees, are subject to a Code of Conduct and the Treasury Board Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector.
- RCMP employees represent one of Canada's most iconic police organizations. Canadians look to each of us to set an example and uphold a standard that is fair, professional, unbiased and honourable.
- Contraventions of the Code of Conduct are taken seriously and the RCMP is committed to handling conduct issues in a responsive, timely, efficient and fair manner.

If pressed on video of K Division Officers hugging protesters:

- We encourage our officers to develop respectful relations with all citizens, regardless of the situation.
- In the case of this protest it was essential to maintain calm through positive interactions so our members spent considerable time getting to know all affected, including protestors.
- As the protestors were getting ready to depart, many shook our officers' hands and two protestors reached out to hug the officers. The circulation of videos like these unfortunately misrepresents impartial officers as aligned to a protest and can be used to falsely suggest that the RCMP is aligned to a cause or ideology.

If pressed on the right to employee freedom of expression:

- Due to the legitimate public interest in an impartial and effective public service, a public service employee's right to freedom of expression is not absolute.
- It must be balanced against the employee's duty of loyalty to the employer and the Government of Canada.
- The type of discipline warranted would depend on the facts of the case and could potentially range from a warning up to dismissal.

If pressed on employee use of social media:

- The RCMP is aware of the material circulating on social media pertaining to a chat group that includes some of its members, and we can confirm that we are looking into the matter.
- This material is not representative of those who have committed themselves to serving Canadians with integrity and professionalism.
- As Canada's national police force, the RCMP is held to a high standard by the public we serve. RCMP members' use of social media must align with these standards.
- All members of the RCMP know that, whether on or off duty, they have a responsibility to hold themselves to the highest professional standards and are subject to the Code of Conduct of the RCMP at all times.
 - This includes acting with integrity, fairness, and impartiality, and avoiding any potential conflicts between their professional responsibilities and private interests.
- The RCMP has put in place measures to ensure the continued integrity of police operations as well as the safety of our members.

If pressed on current police-involved incidents as a result of the demonstrations:

- The Ontario Province's Special Investigations Unit is investigating two police-involved incidents that occurred at the demonstrations in Ottawa.
- The first incident suggests that on February 18, 2022, a Toronto Police Service officer on a horse and a 49-year-old woman on Rideau Street and Mackenzie Avenue. The woman has a reported serious injury.
- The second incident suggests that on February 19, 2022, Vancouver Police Department officers discharged Anti-Riot Weapon Enfields (less-lethal firearms) at individuals in the area of Sparks Street and Bank Street. No injuries have been reported at this time.
- There are six investigators and two forensic investigators have been assigned to these cases. I cannot comment further on these SIU investigations.

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INTELLIGENCE AND IDEOLOGICALLY-MOTIVATED VIOLENT EXTREMISM

RCMP SPEAKING POINTS:

- The RCMP continues to work closely with domestic and international law enforcement partners as well as the security and intelligence community to analyze and assess criminal threats and activities.
- The RCMP investigates persons who are suspected of being engaged in criminal activity, including offences related to terrorist entities, under the National Security and Terrorism mandate. Our investigations target criminal activity of any individual(s) who threaten the safety and security of Canadians.
- We maintain close partnerships with CSIS and other domestic and international security and intelligence agencies, and engage in tactical information sharing with foreign partners to counter IMVE threats.
- Given there is often overlap between hate-motivated crimes and IMVE-related criminality, the RCMP works closely with police of jurisdiction to identify criminal threats of national security interest and conduct coordinated investigations.
- Rest assured, we will respond, with our partners, in an appropriate manner based on what our intelligence tells us.

Question: What did the RCMP see going into the blockades?

Answer:

- At this time, I am not able to release any specifics related to any ongoing investigations.
- That said, I can assure you that the RCMP continues to maintain situational awareness of the threat environment with due regard for any threats with potential national-level public safety implications.
- In terms of what we've been seeing over the past several months, from a law enforcement perspective, we have noted, across the country, an escalation of tensions and public opposition to federal and provincial government responses to the current pandemic.

- Much of the public opposition has manifested itself in a lawful manner, however, we have seen instances of criminal activity and have taken appropriate enforcement action in those situations.

Question: Has the RCMP seen any indication of IMVE or extremists?

Answer:

- The RCMP takes the threat from Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremists very seriously.
- We are aware that IMVE groups are present and have supporters in Canada.
- We also recognize that individuals who are motivated to commit violence may be previously unknown to law enforcement.
- In terms of ideologically motivated extremism, the RCMP and domestic partners continue to investigate certain individuals and groups who have been using the COVID-19 pandemic to spread propaganda, exacerbate social tensions, encourage criminal or violent actions, and undermine trust in public institutions and government.
- While I cannot comment on any operational matters or provide details on specific investigative targets, I can say that, collectively, we have robust measures in place to detect and disrupt threats to public safety or Canada's national security posed by IMVE threat actors.
- The RCMP will investigate and, wherever possible, lay criminal charges against individuals who seek to carry out acts of violence.

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SYSTEMIC RACISM IN POLICING

RCMP SPEAKING POINTS:

- Managing protests and protesters respectfully and within the rule of law is always a priority and a preoccupation of the RCMP.
- We understand that it is imperative that policing agencies in Canada take concrete action to identify and address the admittedly longstanding issues of systemic racism in policing.
- The RCMP has developed and is implementing a comprehensive series of actions that promote Equity and Accountability and build Trust across the organization and in the carrying out of its mandates in service to communities.
- Using funds provided through Budget 2021, the RCMP has set processes in motion that will address systemic racism in all areas where the RCMP has a mandate to preserve the peace and maintain public safety.

If pressed on the approach to Indigenous protestors versus convoy protestors:

- The RCMP is taking the necessary actions to maintain order during this challenging period for the country, all while respecting the rights and freedoms of Canadians engaged in lawful assembly and moving the organization forward on its change agenda.
- The RCMP is steadfast in its resolve to improve trust between Black, Indigenous and racialized communities and the RCMP.

If pressed on specific actions the RCMP has taken to address systemic racism:

- Mandatory anti-racism training for all employees, adding anti-racism content in the curriculum for new cadets, and improving de-escalation strategies are but a few of the many concrete and integrated initiatives that are in progress.